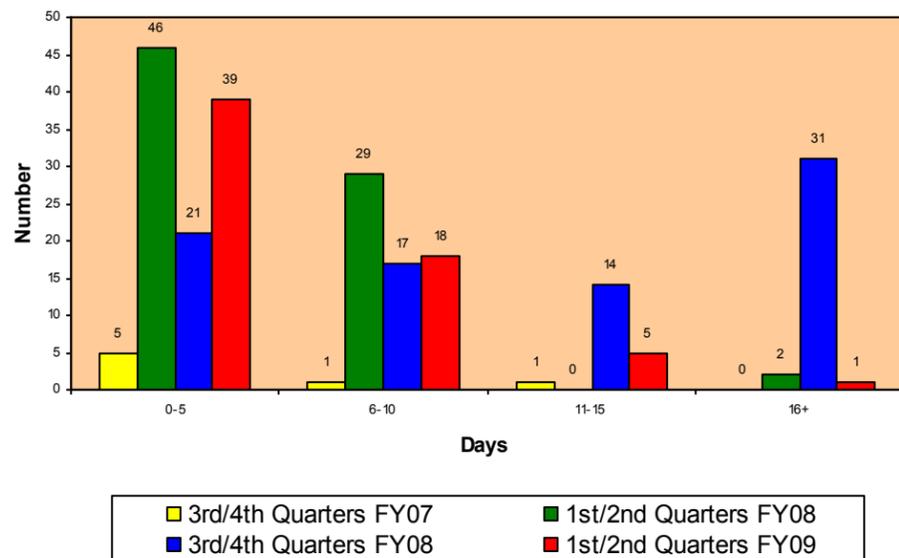


**Approval of ER Damage Inspection Reports**



This chart shows the timeliness of approval for emergency relief (ER) damage inspection reports. Our goal is to approve 90% of these reports within 10 days of receipt.

- We met our goal of 90% for the 1st/2nd quarters of FY2009.
- [Note: We did not meet our goal in the 3rd/4th quarters of FY2008. This is attributed to the Washington Division revising its long-standing policy on "debris removal."]

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) UPDATE**

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Ms. Cindy Callahan to help develop programmatic approaches to ESA consultation, with a particular focus on consultations with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In her previous job, Cindy was the primary author of WSDOT's Programmatic Biological Assessments (PBA) for the USFWS in eastern and western Washington. She will be continuing to assist with the completion of the western Washington consultation in her new role with FHWA. Our decision to add a biologist to our staff came out of a series of discussions with executive management at the four agencies involved (USFWS, NMFS, FHWA and WSDOT) in ESA consultations to reduce consultation timeframes.

These four agencies have pursued other initiatives in the last year, aimed at tackling complex issues that have surfaced during consultations and which have delayed project delivery. The initiatives included, 1) developing methodology for the prediction of the concentration and dispersion of pollutants in stormwater, 2) reaching agreement on how the effects to fish from hydroacoustic sound pressure levels from

pile driving will be measured and mitigated, and 3) improving the existing guidance on indirect effects analysis. As a result of these efforts, consultation timeframes are expected to be reduced thereby minimizing project development delays. In addition, an interagency Program Management Team provides a forum for addressing emerging issues, checking on project status, and resolving issues on specific consultations.

Also to improve ESA consultations and thus project delivery, FHWA HQ has developed a web-based Biological Assessment (BA) tool that WSDOT NW Region and H&LP have been pilot testing for 16 months. The web-based BA tool is intended to streamline the consultation process by allowing BA authors to submit, amend, and append BA's online facilitating direct review/download by NMFS and USFWS. The Washington Division recently arranged for users participating in the pilot to speak to the web-based BA development team to enhance the system. The enhanced web-based BA will become available nationwide in July 2009.

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**Semi-Annual Project Delivery Report**

With data from Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Quarters 1 & 2 (October 2008-March 2009)  
Issue V, April 30, 2009

**INTRODUCTION**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Washington Division has developed the following Project Delivery Report which highlights some of the broad array of activities / initiatives / approvals we perform to assist the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and local agencies in delivering projects.

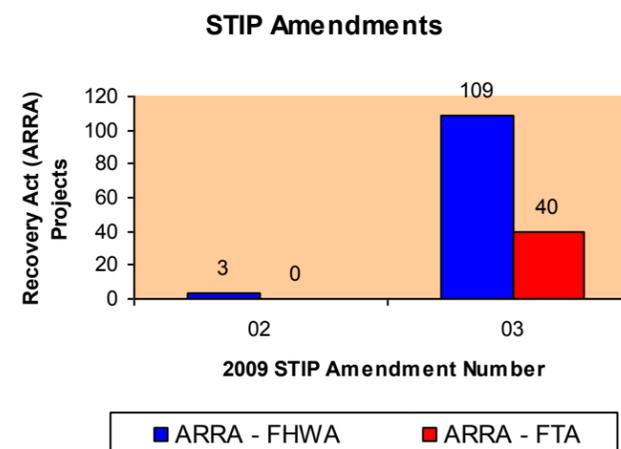
graphs will be added in future reports as new data is gathered for supplemental measures. On the last page we highlight other project delivery challenges.

We will continue to add to / revise the performance measures for future reporting and welcome any suggestions. Our goal is to continue to set the standard for excellence in FHWA in project delivery.

Presented below and herein are charts / graphs of project delivery measures. Additional charts /



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Activity**



In a typical year, we review and approve about 10 amendments to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). WSDOT sends these amendments to FHWA and FTA for joint review and approval on a monthly basis.

The Recovery Act has resulted in almost twice the number of projects that need to be amended into the STIP. We have worked closely with FTA and WSDOT to shorten the review and approval time from 1 month to 2 weeks for each amendment.

As of the end of March, we have approved STIP Amendments with a total of 112 ARRA-FHWA projects and 40 ARRA-FTA projects.

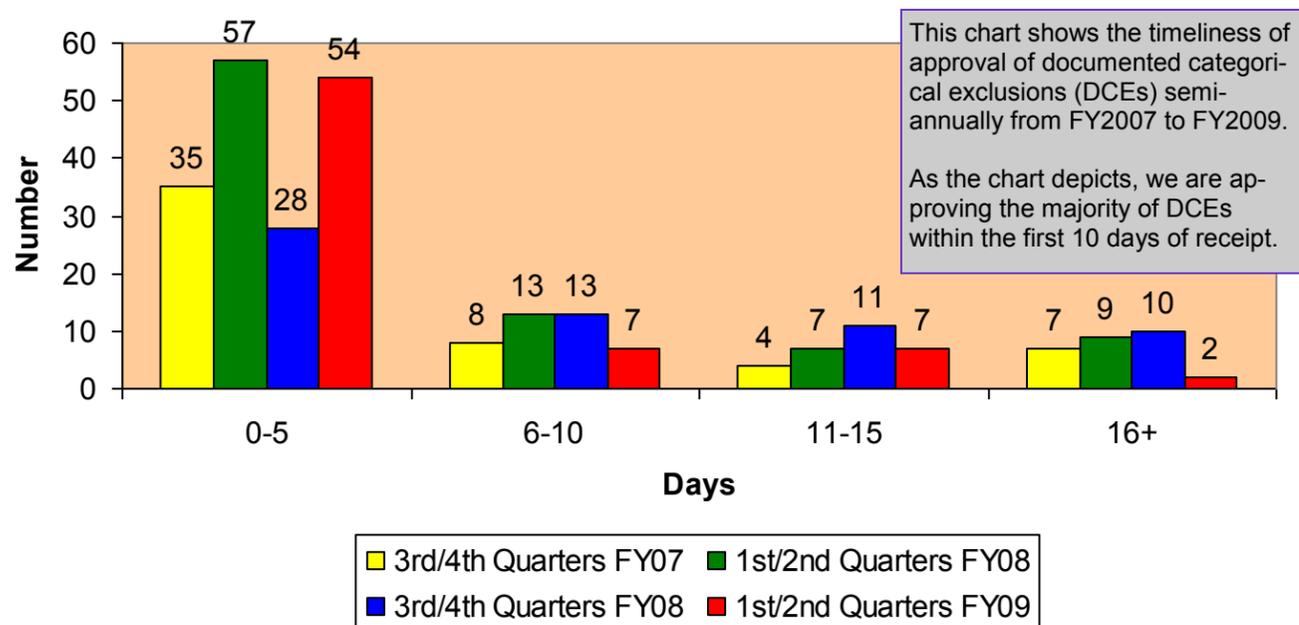
**Timeliness of Authorization for Recovery Act Projects**

With-in	2009
<b>0 to 5 Days</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6 to 10 Days</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>11 to 15 Days</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>16 to 20 Days</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>20 + Days</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>

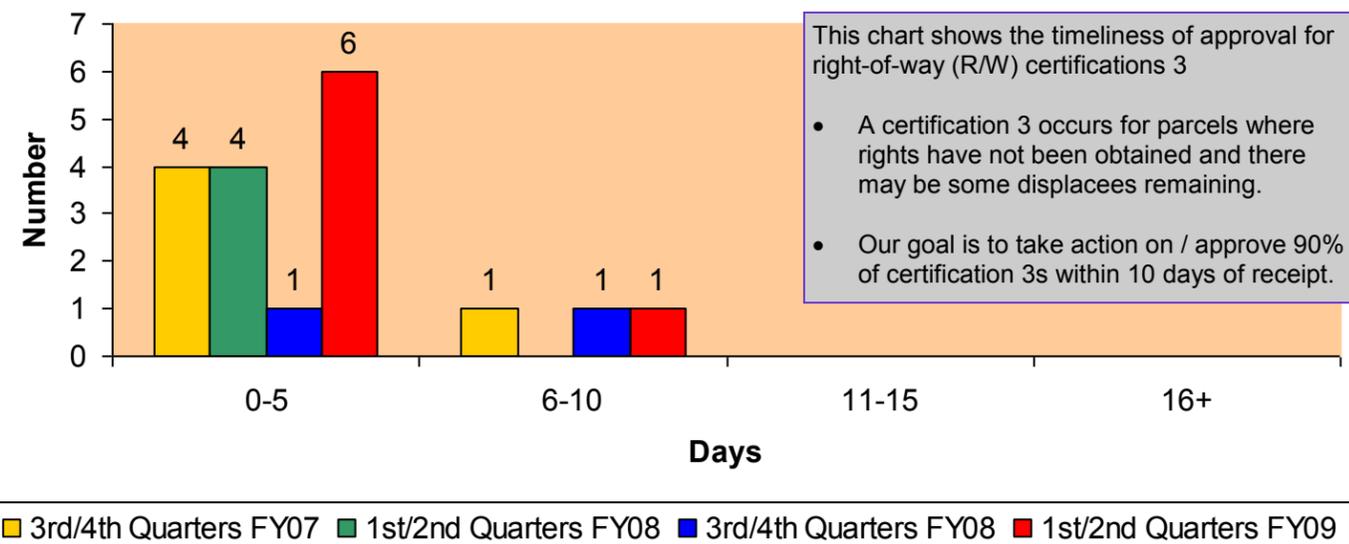
The chart shows the timeliness of approval of project authorization for the Recovery Act projects.

We approved all 13 authorizations within the first 5 days of receipt.

### Approval of Documented Categorical Exclusions



### Approval of R/W Cert 3s



## OTHER APPROVALS/ACTIONS

### Environmental Document Approvals

- I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East ROD was approved on October 6, 2008
- South East Issaquah Bypass ROD was signed on January 26, 2009
- North Spokane Corridor – US Wandermere Vicinity Supplemental EIS was approved on December 10, 2008
- SR 522 Cathcart Rd. Vicinity to US 2 FONSI was approved on November 12, 2008
- I-405 Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects FONSI was approved on November 20, 2008
- SR 99 So. Holgate to So. King Street Viaduct Replacement FONSI was approved on February 11, 2009

### Design Approvals

- I-5/SR161/SR18 Interchange Improvements was approved on March 30, 2009 (11 days after receipt)
- I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East was approved on February 27, 2008 (3 days after receipt)
- I-405/NE 8th St. to SR 520 Northbound Braided Ramps approved on March 31, 2009 (6 days after receipt)
- SR99 So. Holgate to So. King St. Viaduct Replacement approved on December 18, 2008 (Same day of receipt)
- I-90 - Spokane Port of Entry approved on January 26, 2009 (Same day of receipt)
- SR520 & I-90 Active Traffic Management (AcTM) Speed Harmonization Design Matrix approved on October 20, 2008 (11 days after receipt)
- I-5 Harrison Avenue to Grand Mound approved on March 3, 2009 (5 days after receipt)

### Design Deviations

- Mercer Corridor Improvement Project approved on October 20, 2008 (within 4 days of receipt)
- I-405/NE 8th St. to SR520 Northbound Braided Ramps (multiple approvals all within a day of receipt)
- I-405/I-5 to SR169 Stage I Widening approved on March 10, 2009 (within a day of receipt)
- I-5/I-90/SR520 AcTM approved (two) on November 5, 2008 and March 26, 2009 (first within a day and second within 16 days of receipt)

### Access Actions

- 44th Ave. West Interurban Trail & Bridge access break approved on November 14, 2008 (28 days after receipt)
- Sound Transit University Link access break approved on February 9, 2009 (2 months after receipt)

- \* Approval of certifications 1 and 2 have been delegated to WSDOT.
- \*\* In order to authorize the advertisement of a project for construction, the State must certify the R/W has been cleared, per 23 CFR 635.309.
- \*\*\* Certification 3s are to be used infrequently.

### Timeliness of Authorizations / Modifications

With-in	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>0 to 5 Days</b>	208	780	858	724	1327	1463	1456	943	1451	1645	979
<b>6 to 10 Days</b>	24	241	307	121	90	101	103	68	175	128	52
<b>11 to 15 Days</b>	12	77	109	39	10	22	24	13	37	12	4
<b>16 to 20 Days</b>	9	29	34	21	5	3	8	1	18	5	0
<b>20 + Days</b>	31	152	68	98	52	15	17	8	16	13	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>1608</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>1040</b>

This table reflects the number of authorizations / modifications approved within certain timeframes since 1999.

- For FY2009 our approval has increased to 94% up from FY2007's 86% within the first five (5) days.
- The 94% exceeded our goal of 90%! This is attributed to being fully staffed, as well as the emphasis placed on timely approvals.

(Note: the FY begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of the following year.)